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James Earl Ray Protests

James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said in a letter to the Nashville, Tennessee published yesterday that he has been trying for two years to be released from solitary confinement at the state prison here.



"I'm only writing this letter for the legal record," Ray said. It was in response to a story in the newspaper in which prison warden Jim Rose said, "Ray now prefers to remain in his cell and work on his appeals."

"The implication is that I am now what is referred to as a 'check in,'" wrote Ray. "However I have been trying for the last two years to be released from solitary confinement."

He said his response was made "to keep this latest fabrication from being alleged in court with any degree of credibility, with possibly corroborating witnesses, and perhaps again delay confinement relief."

Ray was sentenced to 99 years in prison in March 1969 after pleading guilty to shooting King at Memphis the year before. He was later denied a new trial. — AP

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